Total No. of sanctioned Posts (all categories.)	No. of workers of specified community on roll			Backlog of vacancies		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
85,194	20,754	11,700	24,939	7	22	NIL

The backlog of 7 posts of SCs & 22 posts of STs is due to non-availability of eligible technical candidates from SC and ST communities.

(c) Action is being taken to fill up the vacant posts of SC/ST through local employment exchange and special recuitment drives through advertisements in newspapers and Rojgar Samachar.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal

2771. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to non-availability of coal, many hard coke factories are/or lying closed in Northern Chhota Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to supply coal to these closed hard coke factories;

(d) if so, by when the coal is likely to be supplied to these factories; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the smooth supply of coal to these factories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) According to information received from Coal India Ltd., they are not aware of any hard coke manufacturing units in the Northern Chhota Nagpur having been closed for want of coal.

(e) The hard coke manufacturing units of Northern Chhota Nagpur region are being supplied non-linked washery (NLW) coking coal from the collieries of Central Coalfields Ltd. All efforts are being taken by coal company to meet the demand of this sector to the extent of availability of NLW coking coal.

[English]

Defection Law

2772. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand in view of the present political atmosphere to review the 'Defection Law' to meet the present political situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to convene any all party meeting in this respect; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) In the meeting of political parties held on 29th July, 1997, it was decided that the Government would convene a separate meeting of political parties to discuss the issue of anit-defection law. No date for meeting of political parties has, however, yet been fixed.

Funds to Sick Public Sector Undertakings

2773. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allocate funds to sick public sector units for revitalisation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such sick companies to whom funds have been allocated and the amount of financial assistance allocated during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether such financial assistance has been sought by any public sector units in Gujarat; and

(d) it so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Funds are allocated to sick PSUs based on the approval of the revival plan by the Government. The revival plans include, inter-alia, write off of outstanding loans, conversion of outstanding loans into equity, waiver of interest due to Government and grant of assistance for voluntary retirement scheme and infusion of fresh funds. Information regarding financial assistance allocated. PSU-wise, during the last three years is being collected.

(c) and (d) Revival Plan of Petrofils Cooperative Ltd., Vadodra (Gujarat) has been received. The Plan includes, inter-alia, phasing of loans, working capital and infusion of fresh equity/interest free loans ete. Revival Plan in respect of National Textile Corportion which includes mills under NTC (Gujarat) has also been received. No decision has yet been taken on these proposals.

[Translation]

Income Tax Outstanding Against Air Conditioner Companies

2774. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: